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The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D. C. 20505

Executive Registry

83-0517

20 JAN 1983

27 JAN 1983

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Senior Intelligence Group (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Subcommittee on Priorities Report

1. At its 31 August 1982 meeting, the SIG(I) agreed that the formal requirements process should be made more dynamic and useful, both for policymakers and the Intelligence Community. The SIG consequently established a Subcommittee on Priorities, chaired by the DDCI and consisting of representatives at the Under Secretary level. Our purpose was to facilitate a candid, ongoing dialogue regarding the adequacy of intelligence support to the policy process. I would like to report to you the results of our first quarterly review.

2. As the SIG(I) suggested, we replaced the long-range National Intelligence Topics (NITs) with the existing DCID 1/2 priority listing. Prior to our first quarterly meeting on 12 January, we provided Subcommittee members copies of the DCID 1/2 listing, the existing NITs of current interest, and a list of CIA, DIA, INR and NIC publications responsive to those requirements. We asked members to suggest revisions to the requirements and to consider how responsive intelligence publications have been in satisfying policymakers' needs.

3. A total of 228 publications relevant to requirements had been published since June 1982. The Subcommittee generally concurred with the existing priorities and found intelligence production responsive to policymakers' needs. The NSC representative requested adding a requirement on the POW/MIA issue and modifying NIT #34 to include political instability in Liberia as a requirement. More attention was requested on the issues of narcotics, technology transfer, and international financing. I explained that while we may not have produced that much finished intelligence on narcotics and technology transfer, a great deal has been accomplished in educating appropriate officials regarding the importance and complexity of these issues. Intelligence collection and production should consequently start picking up. We are, however, beginning to experience strains in allocating available resources to these important topics and need to develop better guidance in this area.

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4. I believe the revisions we have made in the NITs process are a step in the right direction. We need some fine tuning, however, to make the best use of senior officials' time and to provide intelligence producers the constructive feedback they need. I would therefore suggest that for our next quarterly review, instead of providing Subcommittee members such detailed, voluminous information, the Intelligence Producers Council staff should develop a short, provocative paper that would do the following:

- Identify the NITs that were particularly relevant during the last quarter;
- Assess the quality of work on these NITs and identify those that were not addressed because of inadequate collection;
- Evaluate production relating to specific NITs; and
- Identify those NITs that could be dropped because they have been satisfied or are no longer pertinent.

5. The above approach should provide intelligence consumers more time to develop new NITs relevant to policymakers' concerns and to focus on the quality of the product and remaining gaps.

 25X1 John N. McMahon 25X1

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